



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for 2002 was 5.0 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This is 1.2 percent above the 2001 annual average rate of 3.8 percent. The number of employed persons decreased by 10,546, or 4.2 percent, from 2001 and the number of unemployed individuals increased by 2,580, or 26.2 percent, over the year. The combination of the decreasing number of persons employed and the increasing number of persons unemployed led to an overall decrease of 7,965 individuals, or 3.1 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from 2001 to 2002. Average annual labor force data for all counties are located at the end of the newsletter in the FYI section, beginning on page 35.

Year-over-year, the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 2,847 or 1.2 percent. *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,049 jobs since 2001. Job increases were noted only in *Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* with a gain of 304 jobs, all in the *Other Lumber & Wood Products* sector. Job decreases were noted in *Construction & Mining*, (-915 jobs), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (-71 jobs), *Industrial Communications Machinery & Computer Equipment* (-868 jobs), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (-1,122 jobs), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (-26 jobs), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (-116 jobs), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (-116 jobs), *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products Manufacturing* (-76 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (-42 jobs).

The majority of jobs created in 2002 occurred in *Service-Producing Industries*. These industries created a net 202 new jobs over the year with *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* increasing 44 jobs, *General Merchandise*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Boise MSA, Ada and Canyon Counties

	Projected 2002*	2001	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Unadjusted			
Civilian Labor Force	251,343	259,308	-3.1
Unemployment	12,449	9,869	26.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	3.8	
Total Employment	238,894	249,440	-4.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	229,018	231,865	-1.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES			
Mining & Construction	15,383	16,298	-5.6
Manufacturing	34,083	36,217	-5.9
Durable Goods	25,821	27,721	-6.9
Lumber & Wood Products	3,047	2,743	11.1
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	813	817	-0.4
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,234	1,926	16.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,131	1,202	-5.9
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	6,965	7,833	-11.1
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,334	12,456	-9.0
Transportation Equipment	1,664	1,690	-1.6
Other Durable Goods	1,681	1,797	-6.5
Nondurable Goods	8,261	8,496	-2.8
Food Products	5,606	5,722	-2.0
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,681	1,720	-2.3
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,856	1,932	-4.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	842	-5.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES			
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,200	12,352	-1.2
Transportation	6,725	6,921	-2.8
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,475	5,431	0.8
Trade	56,285	56,465	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	12,596	12,720	-1.0
Durable Goods	7,697	7,791	-1.2
Nondurable Goods	4,898	4,930	-0.6
Retail Trade	43,689	43,745	-0.1
General Merchandise Stores	5,804	5,653	2.7
Foods Stores	7,408	7,618	-2.8
Eating & Drinking Places	15,359	15,399	-0.3
Other Retail Trade	15,119	15,076	0.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,561	11,408	1.3
Services	63,826	64,336	-0.8
Business Services	14,079	14,772	-4.7
Health Services	19,226	18,150	5.9
Hospitals	9,105	8,361	8.9
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	5,357	5,107	4.9
Other Services	25,164	26,308	-4.3
Government	35,680	34,789	2.6
Federal Government	5,334	5,169	3.2
State Government	12,968	12,986	-0.1
Education	4,129	4,139	-0.2
Administration	8,839	8,847	-0.1
Local Government	17,378	16,634	4.5
Education	11,184	10,874	2.9
Administration	6,194	5,760	7.5

* Preliminary Estimate, includes December 2001-December 2002 figures.

**Estimates include all full- or part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Stores adding 151 jobs, *Other Retail Trade* adding 43 jobs, *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* adding 153 jobs, *Health Services* adding 1,076 jobs primarily *Hospitals*, adding 744 jobs, *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, and Related* adding 250 jobs, and *Federal Government, Local Government Education, and Local Government Administration* adding 165, 310, and 434 jobs, respectively. A number of *Service-Producing Industries* lost jobs over the year, with *Transportation* losing 196 jobs, *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* and *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* losing 93 and 31 jobs, respectively. *Food Stores* lost 210 jobs, *Eating & Drinking Places* lost 40 jobs, *Business Services* lost 692 jobs, *Other Services* lost 1,144 jobs, and *State Government Education* and *State Government Administration* lost 10 and 9 jobs, respectively. The overall loss of jobs in 2002 is consistent with the downturn and slow recovery that the national economy has been experiencing since January 2001.

Tables that show month-over-month changes in labor force and nonfarm employment are located at the end of the newsletter in the FYI section, beginning on page 35.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Construction in 2002

Treasure Valley Table 2 and Treasure Valley Figure 1 show the nine-month cumulative comparison of new dwelling units and total permits for Southwest Idaho in 2001 and 2002. The City of Nampa showed the largest number of new dwellings built in 2002 with 1,237 units, including 1,162 single-family dwelling units and 68 multi-family dwelling units. This is an increase of 25.8 percent from 2001 when, for the same time period, a total of 983 dwelling units were built in Nampa, including 941 single-family dwellings and 18 multi-family dwelling units. Caldwell and Nampa had the largest percentage gains in residential units built over the year with 31.4 percent and 25.8 percent, respectively. The areas that experienced a decrease in construction over the year were Boise, Mountain Home, Payette, and Weiser with decreases of 49.8 percent, 27.9 percent, 84.5 percent, and 76.0 percent, respectively.

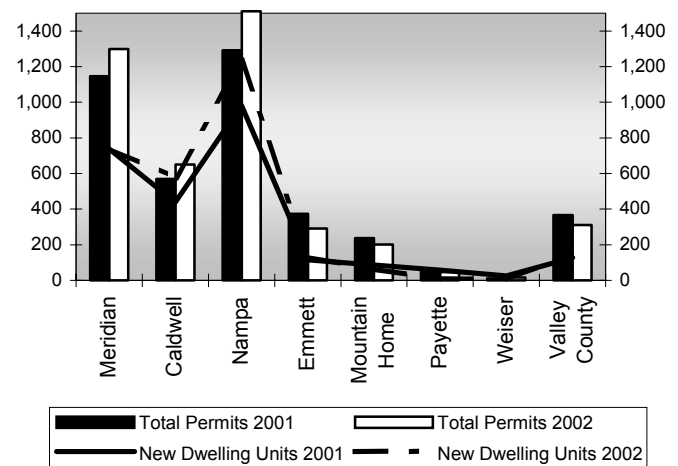
Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the total number of construction permits allowed in Southwest Idaho from January through September 2001 and 2002. The City of Boise had the largest number of construction permits approved in the region with 10,814 permits approved in 2002. This is a decrease of 1,246 permits, or 10.3 percent, over the year. Other areas that experienced a decrease in approved building permits included Emmett, Mountain Home, Payette, and Valley County with decreases of 22.0 percent, 15.1 percent, 17.5 percent, and 15.3 percent, respectively. Meridian, Caldwell, Nampa, and Weiser all experienced a gain in approved permits over the year. Meridian increased 13.3 percent or 152

New Dwelling Units				
	2001	2002	change	% change
Boise	1,511	758	-753	-49.8
Meridian	739	741	2	0.3
Caldwell	439	577	138	31.4
Nampa	983	1,237	254	25.8
Emmett	115	130	15	13.0
Mountain Home	86	62	-24	-27.9
Payette	58	9	-49	-84.5
Weiser	25	6	-19	-76.0
Valley County	127	143	16	12.6

Total Permits				
	2001	2002	change	% change
Boise	12,060	10,814	-1,246	-10.3
Meridian	1,146	1,298	152	13.3
Caldwell	570	651	81	14.2
Nampa	1,292	1,510	218	16.9
Emmett	373	291	-82	-22.0
Mountain Home	238	202	-36	-15.1
Payette	57	47	-10	-17.5
Weiser	11	17	6	54.5
Valley County	367	311	-56	-15.3

Construction statistics originated in Wells Fargo's Idaho Construction Report, Volume 49, Number 9

Treasure Valley Figure 1: Southwest Idaho Construction Update—nine months cumulative (2001 & 2002), excluding Boise



permits, Caldwell increased 14.2 percent or 81 permits, Nampa gained 16.9 percent or 218 permits, and Weiser increased 54.5 percent or six permits over the same period in 2001. The construction permits account for new residential, new nonresidential, and additions, alterations, and repairs of existing buildings.

2002 HIGHLIGHTS

Boise City MSA

- Several businesses in the Boise City MSA laid off a number of employees in 2002. The layoffs included Jabil Circuit, Inc., which closed its doors and laid off nearly 500 employees in December; Sears Roe-

buck and Co. closed its data center affecting 130 employees; Plexus (formerly MCMS), which laid off 120 employees in January; Electronic Data Systems (EDS) laid off 100 employees and released 125 temporary workers; Consolidated Freightways (CF) laid off approximately 88 employees in the Treasure Valley; the Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital laid off between 40 and 60 employees as the Boise facility struggled with declining admissions; RidgeRun, a Boise high-tech firm, closed its doors in late June, laying off 30 employees; Albertson College of Idaho laid off 20 employees as a result of its budget cutbacks; Boise State University laid off 10 employees (but cut 41 positions); Extended Systems laid off 12 employees at its Boise facility and another 18 worldwide; and Hewlett-Packard laid off 1,800 employees worldwide, but did not announce how many Boise-based employees were affected.

- Micron Technology purchased Toshiba's memory chip plant in Virginia for \$250 million and 1.5 million shares of Micron stock. The sale gave Micron a 600,000-square-foot fabrication plant. Micron Technology also sold all 58.6 million shares of Interland stock in February.
- ZiLOG consolidated all of its Idaho operations under one roof at the Nampa facility in early February. The company also announced that it was seeking approval of a prepackaged reorganization bankruptcy filing as part of the debt plan in which all existing debt and stock of the company was cancelled and all of its secured creditors were paid in full.
- The Hewlett-Packard (HP) and Compaq merger was completed in 2002. Both companies' investors approved the \$20 billion acquisition. HP introduced several products throughout the year, including the HP Digital Projector models xb31 and xb21.
- MPC (formerly MicronPC, now owned by Plexus Corp.) introduced several new products in 2002 including the NetFRAME 1500 and NetFRAME 2500—two new compact servers, and the TransPort GTX3—a new laptop. The company also secured contracts with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Army Reserve, and the Boise School District.
- DirecTV announced in mid-November that it would add 200 customer service positions at its call center in west Boise.
- Expansion plans at the Boise Airport continued through 2002. Big Sky Airlines started service be-

tween Boise and Billings in May. Frontier Airlines started service between Boise and Denver in June. Horizon Air started a daily nonstop service from Boise to Phoenix between October 27 and April 27, and a service from Boise to Hailey between December and March. Boise Airport and military officials announced a plan in November to create an international air cargo hub for military and civilian use, which could add up to 4,000 jobs at the site. The plan requires \$80 million in federal monies and permission from the Pentagon to station up to eight C-17 cargo planes in Boise. Congress would have to make the final decision on the project; if approved, it could be operational within the next decade.

- Washington Group International (WGI) was approved for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization in late January. Terms of the bankruptcy included a new board of directors of WGI. Three people from the previous board remained on the new board. Of the eight new directors selected, six were chosen by the company's secured lenders and two were chosen by the company's unsecured creditors.
- WGI also announced later in the year that it landed a multi-year contract, along with Bechtel National, to build and operate a chemical weapons destruction facility for the U. S. Army. The project is located in Pueblo, Colorado, and will earn revenues between \$800 million and \$1.5 billion for the two companies. WGI also sold its Electro-Mechanical Division of its Westinghouse Government Service Co. to Curtiss-Wright for nearly \$75 million.
- The new Ada County Courthouse held its grand opening in January. The \$62.6 million, five-story, 340,000-square-foot courthouse is part of a 14-acre public/private use area that will include a \$12 million parking garage and Civic Plaza—a \$45 million project that will include 299 apartments, 320 parking spaces, and more than 28,000-square feet of retail space.
- Construction started on Idaho Place, a new higher education complex that will include the University of Idaho and Idaho State University Treasure Valley Programs. The \$140 million campus at the corner of Broadway and Myrtle Streets will also house a water-research facility, an office, and retail space.
- Construction of a mixed use, four-story, 51,000-square-foot building has started on Thirteenth Street between Myrtle Street and Grand Avenue in Boise. The building will contain 14 units of small office and retail space on the ground floor and 42 residential apartments/condos on the other three floors.

- Construction started on the site of the Veltex Building at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets in Boise. The five-story, 50,000-square-foot mixed-use building will include retail and office space, five luxury penthouse condos, and underground parking.
- Construction started on a new Costco store located on Cole Road, south of the Boise Spectrum. The 166,451-square-foot store will feature a 16-pump fuel station, 885 parking spaces, a 5,200-square-foot tire sale and installation center, and a 5,980-square-foot garden center.
- Construction started on the Hampton Inn & Suites near the Idaho Center in Nampa. The four-story hotel will be part of the Canyon Park development. The \$7.8 million, 101-room hotel will be open by early July 2003.
- Construction started on the Technology and Entrepreneurial Center (TECenter), located at Boise State University's (BSU) Canyon County Campus. The \$3.4 million facility is the first building on the BSU West Campus. The 38,000-square-foot center is based on a plan put together by BSU, the Idaho Small Business Development Center, and the U.S. Department of Commerce designed to help local entrepreneurs develop products and businesses by working with BSU resources and faculty. The TECenter is expected to open in early 2003.
- Construction started on the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho in September. The \$3.6 million building will include a museum, lecture hall, conference room, gift shop, classrooms, computer lab, a teaching kitchen, and a bilingual library. The Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho will host cultural events and offer extensive job training and economic development programs.
- St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center (St. Al's) released an expansion plan in mid-September, "Vision 2010: The Future of Healing." The \$208 million expansion plan includes a new seven-story center at its current site on Curtis Road in Boise, which will include operating rooms built for robots and new patient rooms that are designed to welcome and involve families. Construction started on the \$11 million outpatient care center in September, which is expected to open in April, and will include two operating rooms for outpatient surgery, an urgent care clinic, offices for family and internal medicine doctors, and radiology services including x-rays, mammography, and ultrasound. Also included in the expansion plan will be outpatient centers in Eagle and Meridian.
- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center opened its new cancer clinic in April. The new treatment center allows St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute to provide radiation treatments to 25-30 patients per day, and allows more cancer patients to get treatment closer to home.
- Terry Reilly Health Services purchased the Melba Rural Health Clinic after it was in danger of closing due to financial struggles. Terry Reilly Health Services broke ground in mid-November for a new health clinic that will open in spring 2003. The 3,500-square-foot clinic will replace the current facility in Melba. The clinic will offer dental services in addition to the medical services provided by the previous clinic. It will serve about 10,000 people annually.
- The Bruce Mitchell Science and Technology Center opened in Parma in January. The \$1.3 million center is shared by middle and high schools in the area, and includes biology labs, computer stations, a hardware lab for teaching computer assembly, and a lab to analyze DNA samples. The center features digital "smart-boards," which are high-tech blackboards that display text, graphics, video, and traditional handwriting.
- Business openings occurring in the Boise City MSA in 2002 included: Albertsons, Inc.'s Westpark Technology Center; OshKosh B'Gosh; Springmaid-Wamsutta; Hanes Bali Playtex; Farberware; Best-Buy; Robert Comstock Design Studio; Pacific Salon Systems; Home Federal Savings; Zions Bank; Sliders Indoor Kart Racing; Self Storage; Club Mantis; Tuesday Morning; IHOP; Fish, Aquariums & Stuff; Headshots; Commercial Tire; Arby's; Wireless Gateway; Wal-Mart Supercenter; the Red Feather Lounge; DeMarcos; a new Washington Trust Bank branch; AutoZone (Boise and Caldwell); Blue Sky Bagels; Just Strays Animal Foundation Feline Adoption Center; Panaderia & Pasteleria; American Family Insurance; Maggie Moo's; Baja Fresh; PetCo; a second Shooting World Outdoor Range; Gold's Gym; the Glass Doctor; Whitewater Pizza & Pasta; George's Cycles; Snake River Management; Clear Choices Skin Care & Electrolysis; Mountain West Business Solutions; Penton Law Offices; Marshalls; Goodwood Barbecue; Avonlea; Fantastic Sams; Quizno's; Claiborn Waite Consulting, LLC; Kahootz Pub & Eatery; Hampton Inn; a Mountain West Bank branch, a Pioneer Federal Credit Union branch; the Porterhouse; a Idaho Central Credit Union branch; Graphic Solutions; Sara's Barkery; Behind the Chair Hair and Nail Salon; a Pioneer Title branch; Two Rivers Salon & Spa; a new Chappala restaurant location; the Tux Store; a new sports arena near the Idaho Center; the Community Family Shelter; Hostel Boise; Maxine Horn &

Co. Realtors; the Real Estate Store; the Yesteryear Shoppe; Clean Flicks; Farm & City Supply; Harvest Classic Deli; Rock, Paper, Scissors; a Wells Fargo Bank branch; the Tucker Bean Co.; a new El Tenampa restaurant location; Impact Training Center; Fun/Sun Tanning; Toni's Country Cuts; Plum Creek Cottage; an Intermountain Community Bank branch; Austin Family Chiropractic; the Simple Seasons; Benchmark Electric; Only One Dollar Store; Oasis Day Spa and Wellness Center; Bennett Chiropractic Center; Oasis Café; Birds of Prey Harley Davidson store; Freedom Skate Shop; Walgreens; a Farmers and Merchants State Bank branch; the Caldwell Family Resource Center; and the Roastere (Caldwell and Kuna).

- In other business news that occurred in the Boise City MSA in 2002, Portsmith, Inc. was purchased by Mobility Electronics of Arizona; Albertsons Grocery Store on State Street and Gary Lane was remodeled; Mountain View Credit Union moved to new offices on Dresden Place in Garden City; Catalina's Taco Loco expanded; Riverside Embroidery & Screen Printing expanded; Idaho Insurance Associates moved to Bank Drive; Reel Theaters reopened Towne Square Cinemas; the former Sav-On Drug Store on Bogus Basin Road re-opened as Crane Creek Market; Bolo's downtown eatery closed; Shabahang Persian Carpet in downtown Boise closed; Four Seasons Travel merged with Harmon Travel; construction began on Life's Doors Hospice and Life's Doors Home Care Solutions; Budget Office Furnishings announced plans to move to the former Skateworld building on Cole Road; construction has started on Lithia Ford's new building located at the corner of Fairview and Maple Grove—the site of the former Smiths Food and Drug Center's half-finished building; construction started on the new Eagle City Hall; construction started on a Johnny Carino's Country Italian Restaurant in Meridian; Intermountain Outdoor Sports closed all three of its locations; the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County started renovations of the former Meridian police station; the Meridian Chamber of Commerce moved to a remodeled office; Norco constructed and opened an air-separation plant in Nampa; Suicycle reopened in Nampa; construction started on a Sunrise Café in downtown Middleton; Best Inn and Suites in Caldwell changed its name to LaQuinta; Lanny Berg Nissan moved from Caldwell to Nampa and will now occupy the Edmark Chevrolet dealership; ConAgra Foods sold 54 percent of its meatpacking business to Hicks, Muse, Tate and Furst of Dallas and Booth Creek Management of Vail—the company officially changed its name to Swift & Com-

pany; Kit Manufacturing sold its Caldwell recreational vehicle division to Scott Thorpe and put its manufactured homes division up for sale; groundbreaking occurred on the new Caldwell Fire Department substation near Oregon Street and Ustick Road; the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce and the Caldwell Economic Development Council moved to shared space in the former City Hall in Caldwell; four Brueggers Bagels locations in the Treasure Valley closed, with three reopening under new ownership as Rocky Mountain Bagel Bakery. All three of these closed, but the location at Fourth and Main Streets in Boise reopened under new ownership as Blue Sky Bagels.

Adams County

- The Adams County Historical Society was awarded a \$150,000 grant in early 2002 from the Idaho Department of Commerce's economic development program for the renovation of the former railroad depot in New Meadows. The project included repairing the roof, renovating the exterior brickwork, extending the south wall of the depot's freight room, renovating the area into a 1,750-square-foot multipurpose area with a portable stage, and renovating the main floor restrooms.
- Clearwater Research closed its Council location, citing economic realities as the reason. The company determined that eliminating the Council satellite office and consolidating services in Boise would improve efficiencies. The closure affected 42 employees; all employees were offered positions at the Boise facility.
- Council's Brown Building, which was remodeled in 2002, now houses the Council Chamber of Commerce and the Washington-Adams Visions for Entrepreneurship group (WAVE). Jim Birdsall, community and economic development consultant, also has an office in the building.
- In other business news in Adams County in 2002, Dr. Monte Eppich opened dental practices in Cambridge and Council, the New Meadows Shavers was sold to new owners and is now named the Meadows Valley Market, and the Council Shavers was sold to new owners and is now named Ronnie's.

Boise County

- Warm Springs Resort in Idaho City closed in 2002. A private buyer purchased the hot springs, pool, cabins, and campground on 77 acres, and closed it to the public. The previous owners tried to sell the resort to the city or community so it could remain open to the public, but those efforts failed.

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort extended the 2001-2002 ski season by an additional week—until April 14—because of unseasonable snowfall in mid-March. The 2001-2002 season proved to be a record year for the resort with 303,000 skier visits, which is 12,000 more than the previous season. Bogus Basin also announced long-term plans to provide nearly two-and-a-half times the existing facility space. The current space is about 41,000-square feet and will increase to about 100,000-square feet of space. Plans include expanding the main base area and making some improvements to Pioneer Lodge. Eventually, officials would like to see a separate ticket sales building, a new ski rental shop, a retail operation with ski accessories, a ski school, child-care facilities, child learning center, and new housing for the race team. Early estimates put the project cost at \$7 million. A dramatic increase in the number of skiers and snowboarders indicate a need for the expansion. In early October, Bogus Basin hired about 500 seasonal employees to work various positions including day-care and parking attendants, ticket and retail shop cashiers, ski and snowboard instructors, snow cat and lift operators, and safety and ski patrol members. Employees are paid a minimum of \$6.25 per hour plus benefits and, if they stay through the season, they could receive a bonus.

Elmore County

- Kmart Corporation closed its Mountain Home store in May as part of its closure of 284 stores nationwide. The company did not offer any transfers to employees of the corporation involved in the 284 store closings, but employees are encouraged to apply for Kmart jobs elsewhere. The Mountain Home Kmart employed 170 persons at one time, although the actual number of jobs lost at the time of the closure was considerably lower than that.
- The Magic West processing plant in Glenns Ferry, and another plant in Rupert, was sold to Idahoan Foods of Lewisville. The sale of the two processing plants allows the former owner to focus his attention on two other area businesses: Carmela Winery in Glenns Ferry, and Quality Produce in Boise.
- The Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) completed several projects in 2002 including resurfacing the runway, repaving the “transient” ramp located in front of the base operations, replacing the instrument landing system, performing environmental remediation on several sites, upgrading the airfield approach lighting, installing a new main sewer line around the north end of the runway, repairing a major drainage ditch, replacing a portion of Alpine Street, repairing a portion of the

JP-8 fuel hydrant system, and replacing 135 slabs on taxiway Alpha. MHAFB also lost two squadrons in early June due to restructuring. MHAFB was a composite wing with a variety of aircrafts. Following the reorganization it is an all-fighter wing. Base headquarters in Mountain Home will now be known as the 366th Fighter Wing. The new fighter wing flies F-15Cs, F-15Es, and F16CJs; MHAFB is also a contender for the next generation fighter—the F-22.

- The groundbreaking ceremony for the new city police department, located on East Eighth North Street in Mountain Home, took place in May. Completion of the new facility will allow the department to consolidate records and officers into one building. The 9,100-square-foot, \$2,075,000 project is expected to be completed in mid-2003.

Gem County

- The Gem County jail bond passed in June after eight failed attempts. Nearly 75 percent of voters supported the ninth jail bond. Construction started on the building, and it is expected to be completed in September 2003.
- Five acres of Boise Cascade property were transferred to the Gem County Recreation District. The property is located at West Main and Canal Streets in Emmett and is valued at over \$212,000. The land will most likely be used to build a community center, although other considerations for the land include creating an indoor recreation center or building an interpretive center featuring information on Gem County’s history.
- Gem County and hospital officials began looking at a renovation/expansion project for Walter Knox Memorial Hospital. The project would cost nearly \$6 million and would complete the last two phases of the facilities’ renovations that started five years ago. These phases of the project could add approximately 4,500-square feet to the existing facility. The hospital’s regular revenue will be used to finance the \$6 million project.
- A King’s Discount Department Store will be built at the intersection of Highways 19 and 52 in Emmett. The 14,000-square-foot building will be completed in 2003; the business is scheduled to open in May and employ 14 full- and part-time people.
- Albertsons, Inc. announced plans in early November to open a new store in Emmett by summer 2003. Construction began in November. The new store will replace the current Albertsons located on Washington Avenue and will be about twice as large. The new store, which will be located on the northeast corner of Johns Avenue and Highway 16,

will feature larger departments with a wider selection of products. About 100 people are currently employed at the Emmett Albertsons; when the new store opens, additional employees will be hired.

- Other business happenings in Gem County in 2002 include: the opening of Autumn Court—a senior living establishment; the opening of the Rumor Mill Bakery and Gift Shoppe; the opening of Y & J's Classical Boutique-N-Things; the reopening of Swing Scene in Emmett; the approval of a special use permit for a youth rehabilitation center; and the closure of Emmett Ford.

Owyhee County

- The Valley Merc in Bruneau closed its doors in early September. This was the only general store in the community, and now residents must travel twenty miles to Mountain Home for groceries and other goods. In an auction this summer, the grocery store, laundromat, café, convenience store, gas station, motel, and bar were offered for sale, but the bar was the only business that sold.

Payette County

- The annual Payette Apple Blossom Festival was held May 9 to 19. Highlights of this year's festival included the Royal West Carnival, the annual parade, various breakfasts and dinners, pie eating contests, food vendors, lawn mower dragster races, karaoke entertainment, various concerts performed by local bands, a pig scramble, mud volleyball, skateboard competitions, and the Apple Blossom Rodeo.
- The second phase of a four-phase renovation project at Holy Rosary Medical Center in Ontario was started in August. A 65,000-square-foot addition is being constructed that will house outpatient and emergency services as well as surgical facilities. This phase of the renovation project will cost nearly \$20 million and will provide more efficiency. No completion date was set.
- Ground was broken for a new industrial park in New Plymouth in early September. At the groundbreaking ceremony, Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne presented the city with a grant check for \$245,000. The grant was provided by the Rural Development Initiative Program of the Idaho Department of Commerce, and will be used to extend city services, including water and sewer, to the industrial park. One business, Noyes Apiaries, Inc., will construct a honey-packing plant on the site that will create 28 jobs within two years after the completion of the industrial park. The plant is scheduled to open in April 2003.

- Several businesses opened in Payette County in 2002, including Coldwell Banker Classic Properties, Body Shop Fitness, the newest El Tenampa restaurant, Ogawa's Teriyaki Hut, Family First Chiropractic, L&L Enterprises, and 4B's Storage & Stuff. Other business events included the construction and opening of the Brandon Bay Apartment Complex, the reopening of Arctic Circle, and the remodeling of the pilot's lounge at the Payette Airport. The Payette County Department of Motor Vehicles moved to a new office building, DJ Foods in New Plymouth announced it will reopen at the Al's Market Location, and Internet Truck Stop will convert the former DJ Foods location into office space.

Valley County

- Tamarack (formerly WestRock), a \$1.2 billion four-season resort on Lake Cascade near Donnelly, reached final approval from the State of Idaho Land Board in mid-May. Tamarack is envisioned to be a full-service resort featuring a large ski hill and an 18-hole golf course. Resort activities will be supplemented with hiking, biking, and snowshoeing. The resort's development is expected to occur over the next 18 years. Valley County officials recently approved the conditional use permit to begin construction, which began in August under the direction of WGI. The initial phase includes building roads and installing basic utilities. The next phase, scheduled to begin in summer 2004, includes a golf course, a mountaintop restaurant with a retail outlet, a fire station, ski lifts, about 300 village dwelling units, and 20,000-square feet of additional commercial space. The projected grand opening for Tamarack is the summer of 2005.
- Ground was broken in early May on the \$5.6 million McCall Ice Rink and Event Center, located on East Lake Street between First and Second Streets in McCall. A year-round refrigerated ice rink built to NHL specifications will be the centerpiece of the complex. The center will also have bleachers, seating 600, two locker rooms, a concession area, and an eating plaza that will seat an additional 40 persons. Adjacent to the rink, a 50-car two-level parking garage will be built to help ease parking along the already busy street. The complex is scheduled to open by July 4, 2003.
- Whitetail Club (formerly Shore Lodge) opened in mid-June after being closed for almost two years for renovations. The lodge and the 18-hole golf course were opened with a new focus as a mostly private facility, closed to the public. Whitetail was open for a few months then closed its operations on October 14 with plans to reopen on May 1, 2003.

Some full-time security, engineering, and maintenance staff, including golf course personnel, have continued working at Whitetail while office personnel continue taking reservations and making catering arrangements for next summer. While Whitetail is closed, the company plans to "polish staff and get systems in place." Twenty full-time and 20 part-time people are employed at Whitetail.

- Boise Corp. (formerly Boise Cascade) held an auction of the sawmill's building and equipment at the facility in Cascade in late July. The dismantling of the mill started in October. In the spring, the company will start rehabilitating the site, a process that could take a few years. No information was released on what the company will do with the land once the dismantling and clean-up projects are finished. The City of Cascade may annex the former Boise Cascade sawmill property into the city. The property could net nearly \$3,500 in taxes as well as be covered by city planning codes in case of any future development. Boise Corp. officials will remove all debris from the property before the company will decide what to do with the property.
- Ashley Inn, a new 65-room hotel in Cascade, had a groundbreaking ceremony in May. The project was made possible by a \$406,000 grant to the city of Cascade from the Idaho Department of Commerce that paid for new sewer and water lines to the site. The new 40,000-square-foot building includes a conference and reception center, meeting rooms, and an indoor swimming pool and spa. The hotel is expected to employ 30 persons when it opens in 2003.
- Spring Mountain Ranch, a residential development near McCall, placed 26 of its home sites on the auction block in mid-October. The development was originally scheduled to include 750 home sites at its inception in the early 1990's, but has been scaled back to 250 sites following slow sales in the past decade.
- A Boise development group recently proposed the construction of a \$6 million complex near downtown McCall. The complex would include a 90-room hotel and 10,000-square-foot conference center.
- Ridley's, an Idaho grocery chain, purchased Shaver's in McCall in late April. Ridley's moved into the 36,000-square-foot Shaver's location and closed its 18,000-square-foot dry goods store. Ten Ridley's employees were moved to the new store. The sporting goods and clothing departments were moved to the new Ridley's, making it the only Ridley's in the chain that sells clothing.

- Several other businesses opened in Valley County over the past year including the Bird Nest in Donnelly, the Fabric Hutch, TNT Skateboard Shop, Native Vision, and Mountain Monet, all in McCall; West Bridgewater Antiques and CrossRoads Antiques, both in New Meadows. A new Washington Federal Savings building was constructed and opened in McCall and the McCall office of the Idaho Small Business Development Center moved to the McCall Job Service building. Mile Leavitt assumed ownership of Alpha & Omega Computers in McCall from Bill Orton, Dr. Jennifer Gray joined the Payette Lakes Medical Clinic staff, Kate Farmer joined four other physical therapists at Pro-Active Physical Therapy in McCall, Meg Fairfield joined Rumors Salon in McCall as a massage therapist, and Candy Kibby joined the salon as a stylist.

Washington County

- The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest and Festival celebrated its 50th anniversary this year in Weiser in mid-June. More than 350 fiddlers played in various competitions; more than 1,100 volunteers monitored the festival that featured cow pie bingo, karaoke, high-tech virtual fiddling, a carnival, entertainment, and a bikers rodeo, in addition to the thousands of fiddlers and spectators who lined the streets of Weiser.
- Construction of Wolverine Stadium in Memorial Park in Weiser started in late May. The school district contributed \$40,000 from its accumulated fund of state lottery proceeds, and the City of Weiser contributed \$40,000 borrowed from its cemetery fund to build the football stadium. A new press box will be placed on top of the 15th row of the new bleachers, donated by the Weiser Lions Club. Construction of the bleachers started after the 300-foot base was excavated and filled with gravel. The bleachers should be completed in mid-June.
- Other business happenings in Washington County included several new openings: a Quinco Credit Union branch in Weiser, Dr. Monte Eppich's dental practices in Cambridge and Council, and Dr. Shane Newton's dental practice in Weiser. Adam Mendenhall, physical therapist, and Kristi Belnap, speech language pathologist, joined the staff at Weiser Rehabilitation and Care Center. The East-side Market in Weiser was demolished in 2002.

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